

Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Subcommittee on Energy Hearing
The Future of Coal: Utilizing America's Abundant Energy Resources
2318 Rayburn House Office Building
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Statement

Thank you, Chairman Lummis for holding this hearing today. I would also like to thank all the witnesses for coming in to discuss the future role of coal in the United States.

I am pleased, in particular, to welcome Ms. Judi Greenwald, who will be able to tell us more about some important projects in the great State of Texas - where we have seen the value of coal energy, but also its negative impacts.

Coal has been an abundant and important source of energy through much of our Nation's history, and that is why I support the Department of Energy's efforts to make our use of coal cleaner and more efficient even as we lay the foundation for a more sustainable energy future.

I am not here to promote one industry over another. Instead, I believe we must promote policies that protect our environment, meet our energy needs, and keep Americans working.

We must do more than just keep the lights on. We need to work towards an energy future that recognizes that our environment is changing, in part due to our past energy usage.

Record droughts and severe storms are sadly becoming too common, but I and many of my colleagues here today stand determined to do everything we can to curb the man-made causes of climate change and give our future generations a sense of environmental security while still providing them with a strong economy.

So I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today on what we are doing, and what still needs to be done, to ensure that our mature coal industry follows the lead of our vibrant renewable energy sector in developing the environmentally responsible energy sources of today, and tomorrow.